

STEREO MOC Status Report
Time Period: 2015:271 - 2015:277

STEREO Ahead (STA) Status:

1. The following Ground System anomalies/events occurred during this reporting period:

- On day 271, during the support with DSS-26, the 80 kW transmitter tripped off-line at 1955z due to a coolant flow issue. The coolant flow issue was corrected and the transmitter was placed on-line at 2045z. The 80 kW transmitter provided approximately 6 dB increase in received power than a nominal 20 kW uplink from a 34m station. This anomaly resulted in the loss of 50 minutes of commanding and 8 frames of real-time data during the transition from one-way to two-way. See DR# G116606 for more information.

2. The following spacecraft/instrument events occurred during this week. The Ahead observatory operated nominally during this week on the 1st side lobe of the HGA to prevent overheating of the HGA feed assembly which was at 111 degrees C and decreasing with the HGA angle at 8.3 degrees and increasing, with respect to the spacecraft-Sun line.

- On day 272, during the DSS-43 support, the segmented frequency acquisition sequence, which will be used to restore communications on the Behind observatory, was tested on Ahead. All 18 one kHz frequency steps were tested twice. While stepping down through the 1 kHz segments, on segment #9 going down in frequency, the transponder locked to the BLF and accepted 9 no-op commands as expected. An interesting finding, but not unexpected, was that the transponder continued to follow the moving carrier and accept all commands sent for the remaining 27 segments.
- On day 273, the 80th momentum dump was executed successfully at 2230z, which imparted a delta V of 0.102 m/sec. IMU2 was used for 1.1 hours and the momentum target was set to the nominal 15 Nms. In preparation of No Gyro Operations, tighter momentum dump command arguments and a 60 second propulsion subsystem delay were used.

- This week, data for the following days was played back from the C&DH routine SSR partition playback:

2015-270-11:58:42z through 2015-276-16:43:17z

Specifically, this partition contains spacecraft bus data for science analysis and instrument status, i.e., attitude history, instrument thermal interface temperatures, heater performance, etc., which are used to create the attitude history and converted spacecraft housekeeping data products.

The following days have not played back yet:

071 through 133 = 63 days (inclusive)
146 through 231 = 86 days (inclusive)
Total = 149 days

This partition's write pointer is being monitored to ensure that these days are not overwritten, which is currently predicted to do so after returning to the HGA main lobe on or about Nov 13th.

Once on the HGA main lobe, the in-situ instrument space weather science SSR data along with the spacecraft housekeeping data will be downlinked twice and verified before the SSR is reconfigured to resume nominal daily science operations.

- The average daily science data return for Ahead, while operating on the 1st side lobe of the HGA, was 80 Mbits during this week.

STEREO Behind (STB) Status:

1. The following Ground System anomalies/events occurred during this reporting period:

- None.

2. Detailed status of the recovery activities to restore operations from the Behind loss of communication anomaly, which occurred on day 2014-274, are listed below.

- The Behind observatory entered superior solar conjunction at the 2.0 degree SPE angle on day 022. Recovery efforts

resumed post solar conjunction on day 124, May 4th through day 178, June 27th, as the spacecraft had cleared solar interference for LGA communications. The Failure Review Board recommendations were implemented consisting of battery state of charge recovery and powering on the downlink carrier. The Green Bank Radio Telescope and the Arecibo Observatory also observed the carrier recovery tracks. To date, no downlink signal has been detected from the Behind observatory since the anomaly occurred. Due to Behind's retrograde motion causing it to re-enter the region of solar interference, recovery operations have been suspended from July through November.

- The Failure Review Board's recommended faster frequency segmented acquisition sequence was tested with the Ahead observatory on day 272, September 29th. All 18 one kHz frequency steps were tested twice. While stepping down through the 1 kHz segments, on segment #9 going down in frequency, the transponder locked to the BLF and accepted 9 no-op commands as expected. An interesting finding, but not unexpected, was that the transponder continued to follow the moving carrier and accept all commands sent for the remaining 27 segments.
- Testing of the DSN uplink arraying capability using the Ahead observatory will resume on day 281, October 8th, and when it is ready, it will be used to increase the spacecraft received signal power to assist with Behind recovery commanding.
- With time the spacecraft range improves RF communications and the ability for other assets to acquire data on Behind. LGA uplink margin returns to 6 dB for the 7.8 bps rate in March 2016 and 125 bps in December 2019 and the LGA downlink margin returns to 3 dB for the 12 bps rate in December 2016 and 35 bps in March 2018.

Significant findings to date:

1. Analysis of the three DSN extracted telemetry frames from the carrier signal just before the planned observatory reset/anomaly occurred on day 2014-274, October 1st, showed nominal performance of the spacecraft, i.e., no anomalies, IMU off, and the star tracker providing an attitude solution.

2. Post reset, from the very limited telemetry, three packets, extracted from the carrier signal by the DSN, the X-axis gyro on IMU-A had failed. Unfortunately, this telemetry contained only G&C anomaly data and no spacecraft summary data, i.e., the state of the RF, G&C, fault protection and other subsystems is not known at the time of the anomaly. With a failed IMU and the star tracker being off-line for an undetermined duration, the sun sensors will keep the observatory pointed at the Sun, though the G&C will not have any roll knowledge, and cannot roll the observatory as part of the safing configuration to re-establish communications on the LGAs. From analysis of this telemetry and initial G&C simulations, it is highly suspected that the observatory is rotating about the principal axis of inertia due to an autonomous momentum dump initiated by biased gyro data flagged good by the IMU, but this has not yet been confirmed.
3. At least two anomalies occurred post reset, the star tracker not promoting to AAD mode and the X-axis gyro failure. Unfortunately, due to the number of possible combinations, the STEREO fault protection system is not designed for simultaneous failures.

Once communications are restored and the anomaly resolved, the Behind observatory will be returned to nominal science data collection as soon as it is safely possible.